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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/637,764	08/10/2000	Dah-Ben Liang	36912/CM/S61	7809
23363	7590	09/03/2010		
CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP			EXAMINER	
PO BOX 7068			NEUDER, WILLIAM P	
PASADENA, CA 91109-7068				
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		3672		
		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
		09/03/2010	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/637,764

Applicant(s)

LIANG ET AL.

Examiner

William P. Neuder

Art Unit

3672

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 May 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 7-29, 31-33, 35-37, 39-41 and 43-61 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 7-27, 32, 33, 35-37, 41, 53-57, 59 and 61 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 28, 29, 39, 40, 43, 44, 46, 47, 50, 58 and 60 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 31, 45, 48, 49, 51 and 52 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-804)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 28, 29, 39, 40, 43, 44, 46, 47 and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Overstreet et al 5492186.

Overstreet discloses a rock bit having at least one cutter cone mounted to the end of a body. The cone carries teeth with a plurality of inner row teeth and a plurality of gage row teeth. The teeth include a hardfacing 55 comprising steel and spherical cast carbide (see col. 4, lines 19-28). The hardfacing comprises filler around 96 per cent by weight. The filler comprises 66 percent by weight spherical cast carbide. The particle size meets the limitation of 16 to 40 mesh. Overstreet also teaches a hardfacing 53 having 70 per cent by weight of filler where the filler is only spherical tungsten carbide. The filler in hardfacing 55 comprises 66 percent spherical tungsten carbide and 15 percent by weight of each spherical cast carbide and crushed carbide. It would have been considered obvious to provide a hardfacing where the hardfacing includes only one of the spherical cast carbide and the crushed carbide in view of Overstreet's teaching that a hardfacing can include only spherical tungsten carbide or spherical tungsten carbide, spherical cast carbide and crushed cast carbide. As to claims 29 and 40, spherical cast carbide is present at 66 percent by weight. As to claim 39, spherical tungsten carbide is provided at 66 percent by weight and spherical cast carbide at 15 percent by weight. As to claim 43 the weight per cent is 66. It would have been considered an obvious design choice to form the weight per cent 70 since 66 is very close to 70. As to claims 44 and 46, the second weight percent is 15, it would have been considered obvious to form the second weight percent 20 since 15 is very close to 20. As to claims 47 and 50, the particle size in Overstreet can be up to 30 meeting the claimed range.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 40, 44, 58 and 60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 44 appears to be a duplicate of claim 29. Claim 44 depends from claim 43 which depends from claim 39. Claim 39 sets forth the weight percent to be between 50 and 80. Claim 43 requires 70 and claim 44 requires 20 which is 90 weight percent outside of the range of 50 to 80 set forth in claim 39. Claim 58 depends from claim 53 and sets forth 90 weight percent where claim 53 sets forth the range of 50 to 80. 90 is not within the range. Claim 60 depends from claim 58.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 31, 45 and 48, 49, 51 and 52 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-4, 7-27, 32, 33, 35-37, 41, 53-57, 59 and 61 are allowed.

Claims 58 and 60 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 28, 29, 39, 40, 43, 44, 46, 47 and 50 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William P. Neuder whose telephone number is 571-272-7032. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David J. Bagnell can be reached on 571-272-6999. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/William P Neuder/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3672

W.P.N.